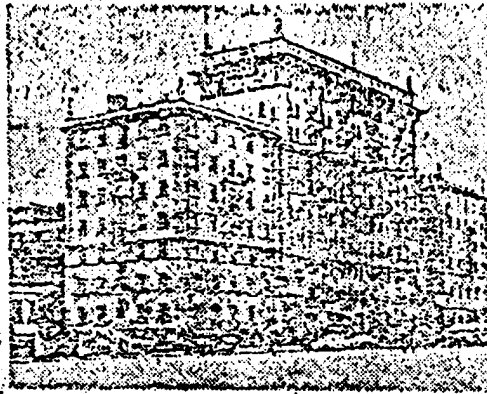


19 February 1976

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U.S. Embassy in Moscow

## Russ Admit U.S. Embassy Radiation, Deny Bugging

MOSCOW (UPI)—The Soviet Union admitted Wednesday that radiation existed at the U.S. Embassy but said the amount was not enough to harm anybody. It called reports that the Russians beamed bugging microwaves at the embassy "a trumped-up story from beginning to end."

An article in the government newspaper Izvestia suggested that the Americans might be creating some of the radiation themselves with the heavy use of radios and antennas in the embassy.

Izvestia said a "careful" check by a joint team of Russians and Americans had found radiation at the complex to be within safety levels set in both the United States and the Soviet Union.

It was the first indication that the Soviet Union had been officially invited to examine the radiation level at the embassy.

The embassy began a series of briefings Feb. 5, reportedly warning employees that the Russians were using microwave beams for some espionage purpose.

"Needless to say that all this is a trumped-up story from beginning to end," Izvestia said.

The Russians said the whole issue had been inspired by antidetente forces in the U.S. government and deliberately leaked to the press.

Izvestia said that electromagnetic fields were not uncommon in areas near radio broadcasting centers and charged Americans might be causing a danger themselves.

"It would be worthwhile drawing attention to the fact that the building of the U.S. Embassy is equipped like a ship with numerous antennas and large-size installations," the statement said.